# The Light of the World.

Jn.8:12 Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness but shall have the light of life.

A friend of mine is closing his pastorate. Any Sunday may be his last. What would my last sermon be? Am going on a vacation, should this be my last talk to you, what would I most wish to say? Well, I have chosen a text that might be used on just such an occasion, for it leads all men to Jesus Christ and Christ in turn leads the way to God and eternal Life.

Read text.

In the O.T. the Word of God is frequently spoke of as light. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway." Jesus Christ being the Word of God incarnate, is, indeed, the light of the world.

"In Thy light shall we see light."
"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shal I fear?"
"The Lord make his face to shine upon thee."
"Arise, shine, for thy light is come"

All the O&T& longing after God and consequent redemption thru God is more than fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

I. Humans have always been searching after God.

Nothing more characteristic of man than his attitude of worship, his longing for God.

But man has always been conscious of barriers between himself and God. Deity always seemed to be beyond his reach. Man, in his search after God might be likened to one in a maze, always trying to find his way out, and yet never finding it.

Primative man struck upon the idea that there must be something in the way between God and man, some barrier. Deity had turned away his face andmust be propitiated. Prppitiation became the idea of universal obsession.

Out of this idea arose all the systems of priesthood amd systems of sacrifice and sin-washings.

2. At the time Christ came on earth the world was dotted with holy places where God was to be found. The flights of birds, the entrails of animals, the stars and many other devices were used to interpret deity. Young women were put into trances and their momblings were eagerly siezed upon as the voice of deity speaking to man.

The Hevrews had built up their elaborate syste of sacrifices and their code of lwys and equirements by which God could be appeased and His good will be had.

Organized religion has always claimed for itself the right to monopolize its own devices. The priesthoods of mankind have always bee jealous of their powers and rights. So strong has this tendency been that the power of the Gospel of Christ is claimed as ~~to~~/~~the~~/~~to~~ ~~the~~ exclusize possession by many church organizations today. Only thru them can God be found. Only from them canthe Truth of God be had. As tho church organizations held patent rights to God which must not be infringed upon lest anathema and hell damnation be the punishment of the guilty.

It was because of this fact that the Church fought Jesus in his day. Because the teaching of Christ became a startling, revolutionary, terrifying thing. For he who spoke with authority declared that there are no barriers between God and man, save man's own self-imposed ignorance and sin. God is more anxious to find us than we are to find Him. God is Love. God is a Fathe searching after his wayward children. God is a shepherd searching after the lost sheep. No man or set of men can monopolize God. No man or set of men can control Truth. The Light shines for everybody. Salvation is free! Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Yes, Jesus is the light of the world, and they who follow the Christ do not walk in darkness but have the light of life! When Christ came to earth all patents to control God and monopolize the truth became void. At the judgement bar of God they have no just claims. God is no austere judge seeking to punish the wicked but a heavenly Father seeking to save the lost, to succor the weak, to cause the blind to see and the lame to wak.

Because Jesus Christ is the light of the world, it is not only a great privelege to be a Xn but a terrible responsibility as well.

In times of storm how important are our lighthouses! The failing of one light for an hour may mean a shiprwck. A Xn who stops to follow Christ just for a little while may lead another life to shipwreck. And yet would you hesitate? It does no good to refuse to become a Xn because of the responsibility for by so doing you deny the light to hopeless people about you struggling n the darkness. How foolish it would be to refuse to build a lighthouse for fear the light might possibly not burn on a certain night and thus cause a wreck.

The only complete failure is the failure of the man who refuses to try at all. But how glorious it is to pitch in and do your level best, to face temptation and to shoulder responsibility. What a thrill out of life one gets who dares all and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength!

Yes, from the standpoint of responsibility it is a terrible thing to be a Xn, but a far more terrible thing not to be one.

It is also equally true that the perfect love from the Light of Life casts out all fear, transforming our burden of responsibility into joy and our fear into faith.

The man who walks with Christ has a right to confidence because he walks in the Light, in the light, the only true light, that lighteth every man.

Let your light so shine before men, etc.
Xns reflect the Christ light,

The church as it use to be absorbed the light. Now it reflects its Xns who memere absord the light are gloomy, they do not cheer and help very much. Reflecting Xns are radiant and inspiring!

Thru prayer and service we become reflectors of light, but when we neglect these we become absorbers of the light.

Conclusion. I do not know what darkness may surround yo you: what grief or disappointment may be making your heart heavy, but I do know that Jesus is the Light and

and that He will make the way plain for you, and that, if you will but look to Him, you may live the radiant, eternal life of God.

Friends often give us good advice and help us in may ways, but the best advice and help a friend ever gave me was that I should commit my life, my trust, my faith, my all, in Jesus Christ.

"O Light, that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze, its day
May brighterm fairer be."